

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN NEW HOUSING

### Site practice for tradesmen

#### Ground floors: Suspended timber floors



The traditional suspended timber ground floor can easily accommodate insulation within the depth of the joists, but poor workmanship can lead to cold spots, and air leakage through the floor. Both can cause excessive heat loss, leading to discomfort and draughts to the house occupants.

Fix netting, or battens and boarding to support the insulation. Lay insulation across the whole floor leaving no gaps, such as between end joists and walls. If necessary cut insulation with a sharp knife or saw. Insulate the gap between the joists and external walls to help prevent cold air movement into the heated room. Pack insulation tightly around services passing through the floor to prevent cold air leakage.

To help ensure a successful installation and good performance from the completed floor, follow the points on the back of this leaflet.

**REMEMBER**

**Workmanship is a key factor in preventing heat loss and air leakage**



**Energy Efficiency**  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

*“Workmanship is a key factor in preventing heat loss and air leakage”*



### POINTS TO FOLLOW

- Store insulation in a dry place prior to use
- Fix insulation when building is weathertight
- Ensure underfloor ventilators are not blocked by debris during construction



*Fix netting or  
battening to support  
insulation on*



*Pack insulation  
around services  
passing through the  
floor, eg soil vent pipe*



*Lay insulation  
across the whole  
floor without  
leaving any gaps*



*Insulate gaps  
between end joists  
and walls*



*Glue and nail floor  
decking in position*



*Seal around holes  
for services in the  
floor decking with  
expanding  
polyurethane foam*



### Acknowledgements

The cooperation of the following organisations in the preparation of this Guide is gratefully acknowledged.  
Building Employers Confederation, Energy Group North West (CIBSE, CIOB, RIBA, RICS), National House-Building Council, Chartered Institute of Building, DOE, BRE, Construction Industry Training Board, NBA Tectonics, Wimpey Environmental.